

## Folke appointed DLCL head

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Carolyn Winters Folke as administrator of the Division for Libraries and Community Learning effective June 8," wrote State Superintendent of Public Instruction John Benson. The appointment came after the resignation of former DLCL administrator Larry Nix in April. Nix left to return to his previous position as head of the Department of Public Instruction's Public Library Development Team.

"Carolyn has broad experience in library services and information technology," Benson continued. "She



Carolyn Winters Folke

joined the Department of Public Instruction in 1978 as part of a National Dissemination Project designed to provide research information to educators through online searching. She later became head of the DPI Microcomputer Center/Library and director of the Bureau for Instructional Media and Technology.

"Carolyn lead the agency's first efforts to carry out strategic information technology planning. Since 1995, she has headed the DPI Information and Instructional Technology Team and acted as chief information officer for the department. Carolyn serves on a number of boards and other groups focused on instructional and information technology, including Wisconsin's Educational Communications Board.

"I very much look forward to working with Carolyn as a member of my management team," the state superintendent concluded. ■

## Supreme Court rules Communications Decency Act unconstitutional

On June 26, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the Communications Decency Act violates the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. If enforced, the law would have limited communication on the Internet, the global network of computer networks, to what is suitable for minors. The CDA was passed last year as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

In its ruling, the court agreed with the American Library Association (ALA) and other plaintiffs that the law was so broad and poorly defined it violated the free speech rights of adults. "It is true that we have repeatedly recognized the governmental interest in protecting children from harmful materials," wrote Justice John Paul Stevens. "But that interest does not justify an unnecessarily broad suppression of speech addressed to adults."

The Supreme Court case, titled *Reno v. ACLU*, combined suits filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Citizens Internet Empowerment Coalition (CIEC), which included ALA, the Freedom to Read Foundation, and journalists, publishers, parents, online providers, and other groups. The CIEC suit challenged the act on the grounds that its vague wording could make librarians and others subject to criminal prosecution for posting materials online that are legal in other media.

"This ruling means we can continue to do our jobs without fear of legal action," said Judith Krug, director of the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom. Former ALA president Mary Somerville added, "Americans can now have access to the same information in cyberspace that they can find on library and bookstore shelves, and parents can decide for themselves what they do and do not want their children to read." ■

*"As a matter of constitutional tradition, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, we presume that governmental regulation of the content of speech is more likely to interfere with the free exchange of ideas than to encourage it. The interest in encouraging freedom of expression in a democratic society outweighs any theoretical but unproven benefit of censorship."*

—Justice John Paul Stevens

For more, see CDA on next page.

## Grants awarded as Wisconsin adopts new LSTA priorities

"These federal dollars enable public libraries and public library systems around the state to meet the library and information needs of state residents in ways that might not otherwise be possible," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction John Benson. He was announcing \$2,512,499 in 1997-98 federal library program grants for Wisconsin.

Helping staff and patrons of public libraries and public library systems to locate and use information available on the Internet is the goal of some of the grant-funded projects being carried out in 1997-98. Other federal dollars are supporting adult literacy projects, reading motivation activities for youth with special needs, creation or enhancement of shared

automated library systems, and projects to improve the use of reference services with technology.

Grant awards come from Wisconsin's remaining allocations for titles I, II, and III of the old Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), which expired last fall. The transition to the new Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program, passed to replace LSCA, is being accomplished during 1997-98. Funds for fiscal year '97 were awarded on the basis of the old LSCA formula, but the projects and grant categories reflect the direction and focus of the new LSTA program. An overview of the amounts awarded is provided in the accompanying table, which groups projects under four headings, technology, resource sharing, targeted services, and program administration.

The Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries and Community Learning has administered Wisconsin's yearly LSCA allocation, made available

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CDA (cont.)

## Vigilance, debate refocus needed after CDA ruling

The Supreme Court's unanimous June 26 decision to rule the Communications Decency Act unconstitutional is the "First Amendment manifesto of the 21st century," according to Leslie Harris, American Library Association (ALA) Washington Office consultant on First Amendment issues. If enforced, the CDA would have fined and/or imprisoned those who transmitted "indecent" material over the Internet to minors. Harris cautioned, however, that there will inevitably be "sons and daughters of CDA," even though the court set a high constitutional hurdle for any such new legislation to overcome.

Harris recommended continued vigilance. While the Supreme Court agreed with ALA and other CDA challengers that the law was so poorly defined that it violated the

free speech rights of adults, libraries may still be the target of future legal challenges. Some 75 percent of public libraries now have some basic level of access to the Internet, according to Public Library Association statistics released in June.

As one example of how librarians can refocus the debate, Harris cited



ALA's "Librarian's Guide to Cyberspace for Parents and Kids" project, which includes a selection of "50 Great Sites for Kids" recommended by children's librarians. The project promotes positive aspects of library Internet services, education, and

ways to empower individuals and parents rather than focusing on censorship and Internet filtering devices.

Harris also noted that President Bill Clinton has agreed to convene a meeting of industry leaders and groups representing teachers, parents, and librarians to further consider some of the issues that the CDA raised. "If we are to make the Internet a powerful resource for learning, we must give parents the tools they need to make the Internet safe for children," Clinton said. "With the right technology and ratings system, we can ensure that our children don't end up in the red light district of cyberspace."

"The Librarian's Guide to Cyberspace for Parents and Kids" brochure is available at <http://www.ala.org/parentspage/greatsites> or from the ALA Public Information Office (PIO) at (800) 545-2433, extension 5044/5041. The collection of 50 "great sites" is updated regularly. Those wishing to contribute may send suggestions to [pio@ala.org](mailto:pio@ala.org). ■

**LSCA/LSTA  
Update (cont.)**



through the United States Department of Education, for many years. The division will continue to administer the state's federal library program, but LSTA allocations will be made available through a newly created federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Wisconsin's 1997-98 federal funds are being distributed to public libraries, public library systems, and other library agencies around the state. Because a number of the library

projects being implemented involve groups of libraries, hundreds of libraries in the state are grant beneficiaries. A list of 1997-98 grant awards follows. ■■

**'97-98 LSCA/LSTA Grants Overview**

<b>Technology</b>	<b>\$\$ Awarded</b>
Internet access	170,000
Educational Technology Board/Wisconsin	60,000
Advanced Telecommunications	
Foundation matching grants	
Shared/Automated systems	133,154
Reference databases	201,322
Major urban resource libraries setaside	107,670
WISCAT (Wisconsin Catalog)	555,767
Statewide technology-Division for	307,011
Libraries and Community	
Learning (DLCL)	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>\$1,648,360</b>

<b>Resource Sharing</b>	<b>\$\$ Awarded</b>
Delivery	15,000
Preservation	10,000
Statewide resource sharing-DLCL	126,092
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$151,092</b>

<b>Targeted Services</b>	<b>\$\$ Awarded</b>
Adult literacy/Job information	243,099
Special needs youth	192,000
Public awareness campaign	15,000
Institution library coordination	35,000
Statewide targeted services-DLCL	137,476
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$622,575</b>

<b>LSTA Administration</b>	<b>\$\$ Awarded</b>
LSTA administration	\$90,472

\* This amount includes an additional \$93,436 set aside for shared/automated system grants and \$20,000 set aside for use as matching funds for purchase of a second WISCAT server/computer. ■■

***\$2.5 million support technology, resource sharing, service projects***

<b>Project (Applicant/Administrator)</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Project (Applicant/Administrator)</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Technology</b>			
<b>Automated Systems</b>			
Joining a Shared System (Adams County Public Library (PL), Adams/Joe Balazs)	\$7,979	Expansion of Internet Access (Winding Rivers LS/ David Polodna)	\$10,000
Automated Systems: Add-On Software (Milwaukee County Federated Library System (FLS)/Doris Nix)	\$50,000	Internet Services (Winnefox LS/Karen Boehning)	\$10,000
Automation (Shiocton PL/Rebecca Rickel)	\$12,550	Surfing the Net III (Wisconsin Valley LS/Linda Orcutt)	\$10,000
Net Southwest: Kid's Catalog (Southwest Wisconsin Library System (LS)/Paul Rux)	\$12,625	<b>Reference Databases</b>	
Shared Automation System (Waukesha County FLS/ Mellanie Mercier)	\$50,000	Business Reference Database Enhancement (Brown County Library, Green Bay/Marijean Zahorski)	\$15,000
<b>Internet</b>		Providing Reference with Technology (Aram PL, Delavan/Peggy Fleck)	\$3,250
Internet 97/98 (Arrowhead LS/Mike Cross)	\$10,000	Library Enhancement through New Technology (Department of Corrections/Vibeke Lehmann)	\$17,708
Internet Access 1998 (Eastern Shores LS/Paul Onufrak)	\$10,000	Full-text and Reader's Advisory Databases (La Crosse PL/Noreen Fish)	\$13,615
The Net Works 2 (Indianhead FLS/Nancy Hunt)	\$10,000	Remote Reference Resources (Manitowoc Calumet LS/ Carol Gibson)	\$6,095
Internet Access (Kenosha PL/David Jacka)	\$10,000	Specialized Database Project (Milwaukee County FLS/ Doris Nix)	\$17,603
Internet Access (Lakeshores LS/Peggy Shaffer)	\$10,000	Electronic Business Reference Resources (Milwaukee PL/Lynn Bellehumeur)	\$15,000
Internet Access (Manitowoc Calumet LS/Carol Gibson)	\$10,000	CD-ROM Reference Expansion Project (Northern Waters LS/Linda Stobbe)	\$33,894
Expanding and Integrating Internet Use (Mid-Wisconsin FLS/Sharon Webb)	\$10,000	Internet Access to Periodicals Index (Oshkosh PL/ Robert Trunley)	\$5,450
Internet: Web Page Development (Milwaukee County FLS/Doris Nix)	\$10,000	Use of Reference Databases (Powers Memorial Library, Palmyra/Ann Fridl)	\$9,829
Internet Access for Rural Libraries (Nicolet FLS/ Terrie Howe)	\$10,000	CD-ROM Bonanza (Muehl PL, Seymour/Kathleen Whitt)	\$3,838
Community Information Access Centers (Northern Waters Library Service (LS)/Jay Moynihan)	\$10,000	Real Information in Real Time (Mead PL, Sheboygan/ Mary Ellen Petzold)	\$15,000
Internet Access (Outagamie Waupaca LS/ Richard Krumwiede)	\$10,000	Full-Text Magazine and Investment Database (South Central LS/Lauren Blough)	\$40,000
Internet Access (South Central LS/Phyllis Davis)	\$10,000	Linking Information with Staff and Programs (Winnebago Mental Health Institute/Mary Kotschi)	\$5,040
Southwest Internet (Southwest Wisconsin LS/Paul Rux)	\$10,000		
Internet Access and Training (Waukesha County FLS/Mellanie Mercier)	\$10,000		

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## LSCA/LSTA Update (cont.)

### LSTA plan completed

The *Library Services and Technology Act Plan for Wisconsin 1997-2002* has been completed and submitted to the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services for approval. LSTA is the new federal library program passed by the

U.S. Congress last fall, and the plan provides a framework for using LSTA funds in Wisconsin during the next five years.

The Division for Libraries and Community Learning (DLCL), which administers Wisconsin's federal library program, released a draft five-year plan in March. The final plan incorporates many suggestions that interested groups and individuals made in response to a request for comments on that draft.

The LSTA Plan can be found on the DLCL home page in the LSCA/LSTA Policies and Activities section or at <http://www.state.wi.us/agencies/dpi/dlcl/lsta-plan.html>. Copies of the plan also may be requested from division LSTA coordinator Peg Branson at the Department of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 7841, Madison 53707-7841; (608) 266-2413, fax:(608) 267-1052, [bransms@mail.state.wi.us](mailto:bransms@mail.state.wi.us). ■■

## Grant Awards (cont.)

Project (Applicant/Administrator)	Amount
<b>Statewide Technology</b>	
Library Development (DLCL/Larry Nix)	\$95,126
Reference and Loan (DLCL/Sally Drew)	\$211,885
WISCAT (Title I) (DLCL/Sally Drew)	\$306,605
WISCAT (Title III) (DLCL/Sally Drew)	\$249,162

### Resource Sharing

<b>Statewide Resource Sharing</b>	
Division Administration (DLCL/Larry Nix)	\$30,000
Reference and Loan (DLCL/Sally Drew)	\$96,092
Wisconsin's Literary Heritage (South Central LS/ Louis Pitschmann)	\$10,000

### Targeted Services

<b>Adult Literacy/Job Information</b>	
Rock County Works: The Library Connection (Arrowhead LS/Mike Cross)	\$22,550
Career Center (Vaughn PL, Ashland/ Jim Trojanowski)	\$9,854
Job Searching with the Brown County Library (Brown County Library, Green Bay/Rosalie Shier)	\$25,867
Jail Library: A First-Stop Job Center (Dane County LS/Julie Chase)	\$16,855
LifeNet, Literacy, and Job Center Network (Milwaukee PL/Marcia Nagy)	\$68,500
Foundation for County Literacy Education (Monroe PL/Michael Dowling)	\$10,683
Library as Life Management Skills Center (Northern Waters LS/Joan Airoidi)	\$20,306
Jail Literacy and Job Skills Outreach (Phillips PL/ John Hendricks)	\$3,674
Reaching Adult New Readers and Nonusers (Racine Correctional Institution/Jean Dushensky)	\$7,000
Library and Literacy Services at County Jails (Southwest Wisconsin LS/James Wroblewski)	\$16,210
Educationally and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (Waukesha County FLS/Nancy Fletcher)	\$19,945
Job Information/Adult Literacy (Winnefox LS/ Janice Dibble)	\$21,655

## Project (Applicant/Administrator) Amount

### Special Needs Youth

Books in the Park (Altoona PL/Carol Hillman)	\$6,889
Completing the Cycle in Literacy Outreach (Beloit PL/ Kate FitzGerald-Fleck)	\$9,810
Born to Read, Part Two (Brown County Library, Green Bay/Michelle Wick)	\$16,132
Library Service to Migrant Youth (Jane Morgan Memorial Library, Cambria/Jeanne Radke)	\$7,166
Day Care Outreach (DeForest PL/ Janis Berg)	\$14,888
Research Units for Disadvantaged Youths (Delafield PL/Martha Riel)	\$4,247
Tot 'n' Tell Storytime (Ellsworth PL/Margaret Levenhagen)	\$7,844
Library Connection at Childcare Sites (La Crosse PL/ Pamela Venneman)	\$11,077
Children with Learning Disabilities (Manitowoc Calumet LS/Carol Gibson)	\$13,795
Born to Read: Raising Readers (Marathon County PL, Wausau/Sonja Ackerman)	\$15,107
Five Finger Book Bag Project (Northern Waters LS/ Joan Airoidi)	\$19,515
Library Service for the Hmong (Oshkosh PL/ Laurie Magee)	\$7,000
Reaching Out through Day Care (Plum Lake PL, Sayner/Ida Nemec)	\$6,100
Library/Head Start Collaboration Project (Portage PL/Mary Loomans)	\$5,700
Library Enhancement Project (Southern Oaks Girls School/Holly Audley)	\$6,000
Collection Development and Outreach (Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped/William Koehler)	\$21,117
Youth with Learning Disabilities (Wisconsin Valley LS/ Beth Sillars)	\$19,613

### Statewide Targeted Services

Library Development (DLCL/Larry Nix)	\$137,476
Coordination of Institution Library Services (Department of Corrections/Vibeke Lehmann)	\$35,000
Public Awareness of Wisconsin Libraries (South Central LS/Kathy Schneider)	\$15,000

### Administration

<b>LSCA/LSTA Administration</b>	
LSCA/LSTA Administration (DLCL/Peg Branson)	\$90,472

## How do schools and libraries take advantage of FCC-mandated telecommunications discounts?

On May 7, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unanimously passed a rule to provide libraries and kindergarten through 12th-grade (K-12) schools with discounts of 20 to 90 percent on a variety of telecommunications services. Commission members did so in compliance with a mandate included in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and in response to expressions of support received from around the country. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction sent a number of letters to the FCC during the time when it was accepting public comment on this issue.

This article provides a preliminary analysis of implications for schools and libraries of the FCC's ruling. It is based upon written commentary from the American Library Association; materials prepared by Department of Public Instruction (DPI) technology consultant Bob Bocher; and a letter from State Superintendent John Benson to Wisconsin school district, cooperative educational service agency (CESA), public library, and public library system administrators.

The numbers in parentheses refer to paragraph numbers in the May 7 FCC ruling from which this information was derived. The full text of the FCC ruling is available at [http://www.fcc.gov/ccb/universal\\_service/fcc97157/](http://www.fcc.gov/ccb/universal_service/fcc97157/). For additional information on the ruling, visit <http://www.ala.org/oitp/univserv.html>.

**When do the discounts start?** January 1, 1998 (607). As of *Channel* press time, however, a number of telecommunications companies had filed suits against the Universal Service program. These actions may delay program start-up and payment of federal discounts.

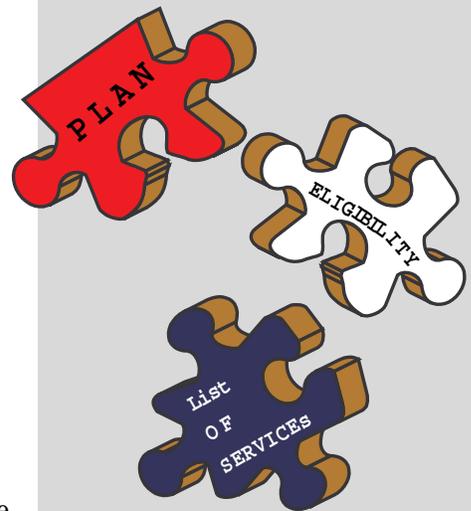
**What institutions are eligible?** Generally public libraries, public and private elementary and secondary schools, and consortia consisting of these institutions are eligible for discounts on FCC-specified telecommunications services and equipment.

**Libraries.** To be eligible, a library must conform to the definition of a library in the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and be operating as a nonprofit organization. The library also must have a budget that is "separate from any institution of learning" such as an elementary school, secondary school, college or university. (558)

**Schools.** Elementary and secondary schools, as defined by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, are eligible for discounts if they have endowments of less than \$50 million (554). Public and private schools are eligible. In Wisconsin, home schools are not considered to fall under the ESEA definitions and so do not qualify for discounts.

**Consortia** consisting of eligible libraries, schools, and rural health care providers (which are also eligible for universal service discounts), along with some public-sector/governmental entities and private-sector entities may apply for discounts. Discounts may be allocated only to eligible

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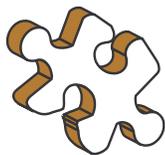


**How do we apply for the discounts?** The FCC is working with the Department of Education (571) on design of the school and library Universal Service (US) application form. While the actual form will probably not be available until at least September, the FCC ruling does outline what a school or library must do to meet the overall US discount requirements. Applications must include, at a minimum, the elements outlined here.

- Schools and libraries interested in obtaining US discounts must conduct a *technology inventory/assessment* (572) that reviews what telecommunications-related facilities already exist or are planned. They must provide information on these items, when applicable to the services requested.
  - Computer equipment currently available or budgeted for purchase
  - Internal connections, if any, that a school or library already has or anticipates installing
  - Software for local area network (LAN) and telecommunication connections currently in place or budgeted for

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## Discount Table for Schools and Libraries



% Students eligible* for lunch program	Urban discount%	Rural discount%
<1	20	25
1-19	40	50
20-34	50	60
35-49	60	70
50-74	80	80
75-100	90	90

\* Discounts for both schools and libraries will be based on the combined number of students *eligible* for the national free and reduced-price lunch program in their service areas. The number of eligible students is usually higher than the number of students actually participating.

## How to Apply (cont.)

- Staff experience and training in the use of the equipment
- Existing or budgeted-for contracts for computer maintenance
- Capacity of the school's or library's electrical system to handle simultaneous uses

Schools and libraries must also prepare specific *technology plans* outlining how they will use technology in the near term and in the future (573). The FCC requires that these plans be approved at the state level, but the state agency responsible for such approvals has not yet been named. Technology plans already approved for other programs, such as Goals 2000 and the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund (TLCF) grants, will be accepted without need for further approval. Those wishing further information about whether their school's plan qualifies may contact Neah Lohr at (608) 266-3856

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## Telecom Discounts (cont.)

consortium members—libraries, schools, and rural health care providers. The FCC made library consortia as defined by LSTA eligible for discounts, but it excluded from eligibility any consortium that is an “international cooperative association of library entities (478, 560-563).” According to Bocher, it appears likely that library systems will be eligible for federal discounts, but it is not certain if CESAs will be eligible.

**What services are eligible for discount?** Any commercially available telecommunications service is eligible for discount. In addition, Internet access and internal connections are eligible (431, 444-448, 450-463). Included are routers, hubs, network file servers/server software, and wireless local area networks (LANs) as well as their installation and basic maintenance. Personal computers are not eligible.

The federal Universal Service Fund also may be used for discounts on intrastate services, conditional upon state adoption of discount levels at least equal to the interstate discounts (550). Wisconsin's Public Service Commission adopted the required discount levels on July 10. Any telecommunications carrier or non-telecommunications carrier providing eligible services is eligible for support from the Universal Service Fund as well (449, 599).

**What kind of discounts will a library or school receive?** Discounts range from 20 percent to 90 percent, depending on the level of economic need as measured by the percentage of students eligible for the national school lunch program (*see table*). Discounts are slightly higher for institutions in rural areas. Discounts can be calculated per school or library, or they can be averaged for an entire school district or library system (492, 523, 524).

Discounts are taken off a prediscount price known as the lowest corresponding price. The lowest corresponding price is the lowest price provided under tariff or contract for similar services in the providers' geographic service area and acts as a ceiling on the prediscount price (485-488). Discounts can apply to existing contracts for eligible services but will not apply to voluntary extensions of these contracts (545).

**How much money is available for the discounts?** For the six-month period from January 1, 1998, through June 30, 1998, no more than \$1 billion will be available for these discounts. The program is designed so that approximately \$2.25 billion will be available annually, with a rollover to the next year of up to half of any unused portion of the authorized amounts. The fund administrator will make quarterly reports on expenditures and needs for each succeeding quarter (529, 532). ■■

**NOTE.** Updates on information in this article will be posted on the DPI home page (<http://www.state.wi.us/agencies/dpi/www/telecom-act.html>), at [http://www.state.wi.us/agencies/dpi/www/fcc\\_up.html](http://www.state.wi.us/agencies/dpi/www/fcc_up.html), and to school and library listservs as they become available. Other resources are the DPI electronic mail list at [www.state.wi.us/agencies/dpi/www/wipk\\_12.html](http://www.state.wi.us/agencies/dpi/www/wipk_12.html) and DPI technology consultant Bob Bocher at (608) 266-2127, fax (608) 267-1052, [bocherf@mail.state.wi.us](mailto:bocherf@mail.state.wi.us).

“Frequently Asked Questions on Universal Service and the Snowe-Rockefeller Amendment” is available on the FCC Universal Service page at [http://www.fcc.gov/ccb/universal\\_service/](http://www.fcc.gov/ccb/universal_service/) or directly at [http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common\\_Carrier/Public\\_Notices/1997/da971374.html](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Public_Notices/1997/da971374.html). The document responds to 40 questions asked on the libraries and schools portion of the Universal Service Order adopted May 7. ■■

## How to Apply (cont.)

or lohrnj@mail.state.wi.us. The eight technology planning requirements for the TLCF grant program can be found at <http://www.merit.edu/k12.michigan/usf/mdetlc.html>.

- Schools and libraries will be required to describe the telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections they want to purchase in sufficient detail so that telecommunications and other providers will be able to bid on provision of these services.

- School and library staff must certify eligibility and level of discount based on economic need. Economic need is measured by the number of students eligible for the national free and reduced-price school lunch program (see table on page 6). Libraries would



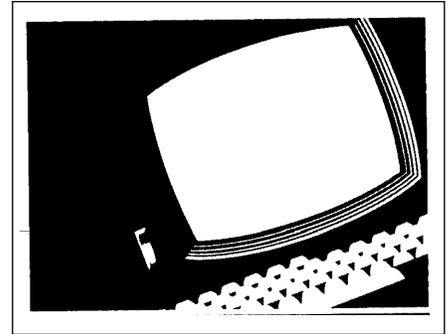
use the measure of school lunch for the school district in which they reside or the nearest district. Discounts can be calculated on a systemwide or on an individual school or library basis (522-525). Staff also must certify that services to be purchased will be used only for educational purposes, that the funding has been budgeted for the nondiscounted portion of the requested services, and that any applicable state and local procurement processes have been followed (577).

**Where will we send the discount application?** Applications will be reviewed by the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), the interim Universal Service (US) Fund administrator. They will be processed on a first-come, first served basis (535). NECA will place requests in the funding queue according to the date on which they are received. ■

**How will the discounts work?** Requests for services covered under the Universal Service program will be posted on the NECA Web page for a month to allow time for service providers to submit competitive bids (576,579). Schools and libraries do not have to receive telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections all from the same provider, nor do they have to accept the lowest bid. They *are* encouraged to select the most cost-effective provider of such services (594).

Once an agreement is reached with a provider, the school or library will notify NECA and include an estimate of the funds needed for the current and the following year. If there are sufficient US funds available, the administrator will notify the school or library that funding has been approved (579). After the provider begins supplying service, the school or library must again notify the fund administrator to begin disbursement of Universal Service funds to that provider (580). The school or library will not receive US funds directly.

Applications for discounts will have to be submitted to the fund administrator each year, and a school or library receiving a discount one year has no guarantee that it will receive a discount in subsequent years (537). If only \$250 million of the \$2.25 billion US budget remains, priority will be given to schools and libraries that are most economically disadvantaged and have not yet received US funding (539).



## Gates Foundation to fund Internet access

Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife Melinda French Gates have announced the formation of the Gates Library Foundation, a non-profit organization that will expand the work of the Libraries Online project launched by Microsoft with the American Library Association (ALA) in December 1995.

The foundation will make available \$400 million in cash and software to public libraries in low-income communities to help fund Internet access and to provide support and training for librarians and library staff throughout the U.S. and Canada. According to ALA, the gift is the biggest contribution to libraries since industrialist Andrew Carnegie gave \$41.2 million for new library construction at the turn of the century.

The Libraries Online program has reached more than 200 libraries in North America with \$25 million in cash and software donations in the first 18 months. The Gates Library Foundation (GLF) will expand that gift with a commitment of \$200 million in cash and \$200 million in software.

Chris Hedrick, who has administered Libraries Online at Microsoft, will serve as foundation program director. The foundation process for awarding grants is being developed. For more information, see the foundation's web site at [www.glf.org](http://www.glf.org) or contact Hedrick at (425) 882-1200 or [ubfi@glf.org](mailto:ubfi@glf.org). ■

# At Reference and Loan

## WISCAT celebrates 15th birthday

WISCAT (Wisconsin Catalog) the statewide computerized union catalog, is 15 years old this year. First developed in 1982 and produced on microfiche, the catalog is designed to serve as a resource-sharing tool for libraries of all types and sizes. Another goal of the WISCAT project is to provide a source of USMARC (machine-readable cataloging) records that local libraries can use in their own automated catalogs and circulation systems.

The first edition of the statewide database included cataloging records for 1.4 million titles held by 139 libraries around Wisconsin. As staff at increasing numbers of libraries became interested in creating a more comprehensive resource, the catalog grew. By the time the 15th edition was released this spring, WISCAT had expanded to include records for 5.6 million titles and 26.3 million other items held by 1,125 Wisconsin libraries.

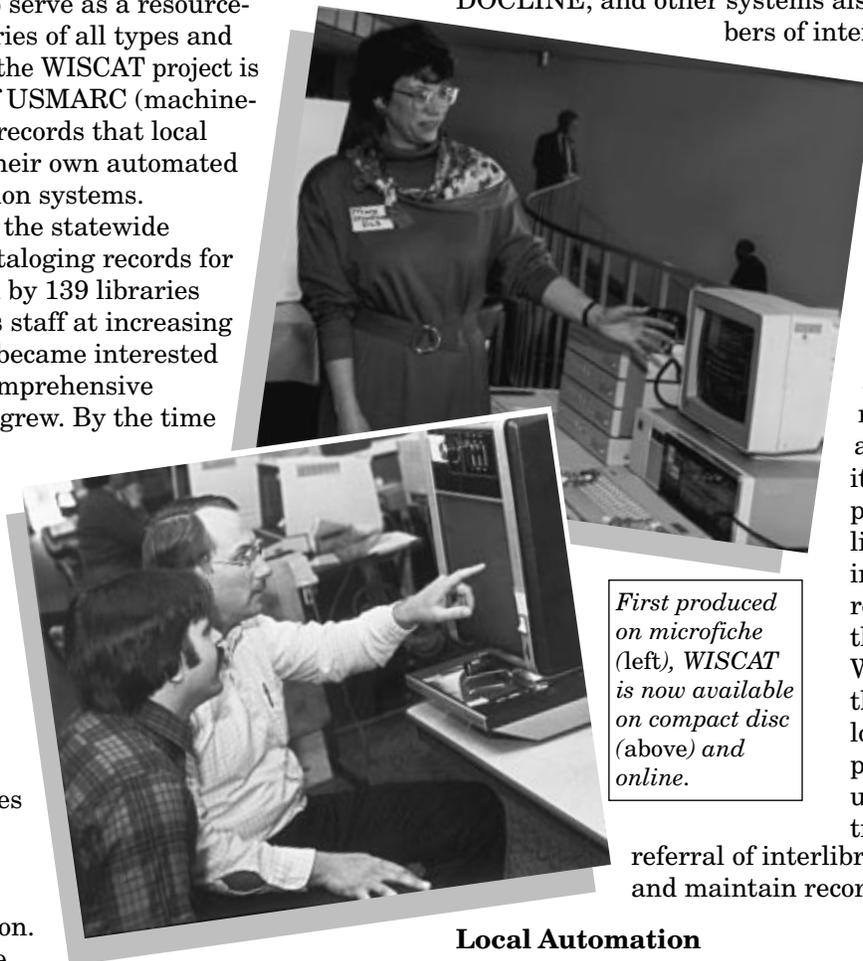
The number of cataloging and holdings records it includes makes the Wisconsin Catalog one of the largest statewide databases in the nation. In addition, it has the highest number of diverse library participants. The catalog is now published on compact disc (CD-ROM) and also is available online on the World Wide Web.

### Resource Sharing

Approximately 700 Wisconsin libraries currently use WISCAT as a resource-sharing tool. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), Wisconsin has consistently ranked among the top states in the nation for level of public library interlibrary loan (ILL) activity reported, about 125 interloans annually per 1,000 people in the state. (NCES has no

national statistics for other types of libraries.) A 1988 study by King Research found that WISCAT was used to facilitate about half of the interlibrary loan in Wisconsin. Local shared, automated circulation/online catalog systems, the national Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) database, the medical libraries' DOCLINE, and other systems also handle large numbers of interloan transactions each year.

The statewide database plays additional roles in the interloan process as well. Staff from libraries around the state report that they often use WISCAT to locate a title so they can refer patrons to an area library that owns it. The WISCAT program enables library staff to create interlibrary loan requests and route them to other libraries. With the addition of the QuILL interlibrary loan management program, WISCAT users can manage transmission and referral of interlibrary loan requests and maintain records of ILL statistics.



*First produced on microfiche (left), WISCAT is now available on compact disc (above) and online.*

### Local Automation

By serving as a source of MARC records, WISCAT also has helped make it possible for Wisconsin libraries to efficiently and inexpensively create local library databases in machine-readable form. This in turn has contributed significantly to the development of local automated library systems. To date, 500 libraries around the state have extracted records from WISCAT and used them to automate their catalogs and circulation systems.

In addition, staff from Wisconsin libraries report using WISCAT to support a variety of other library activities. The database has helped them answer

*continued on next page*

## Staff development materials available

Helping public library staff to thrive and be more effective in challenging times is the goal of ten videocassette courses in the *Library Staff Development Series* produced by the Urban Libraries Council and funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The series also includes a program for library staff and nonstaff that describes how the public library has evolved to become what it is today. These 11 of the 15 programs planned for the series are now available for loan from the Reference and Loan Library.

The ten inservice training courses are designed to be easily adapted to the needs of an individual library or system of libraries and to be used with in-house staff facilitators. Each

can be presented in a single session or in multiple sessions totaling two and a half to three hours.

Among accompanying course materials are a facilitation guide that provides a program description, information about facilitator and administrator preparation, and

a suggested facilitation outline. Reproducible participant handouts, a companion 15- to 20-minute videocassette presenting dramatized vignettes appropriate to each topic, and evaluation forms also are included.

*continued on next page*

### **Catalog lists more than 7,000 video resources**

*VHS Videocassette Loan Catalog* is a new printed list of VHS videocassettes available for free loan from the Reference and Loan Library. The 124-page book provides an unannotated title listing of more than 7,000 videocassette programs. Included in the collection are Reference and Loan's own acquisitions and titles formerly available for rent from the University of Wisconsin-Extension Bureau of Audiovisual Instruction (BAVI). Also part of the collection are items given to Reference and Loan by other Wisconsin state government agencies, including the Wisconsin Department of Commerce Bureau of Safety Services, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources,

*continued on next page*

## WISCAT (cont.)

reference questions, find titles about requested subjects, and obtain cataloging information. It has served as a backup for local automated system databases and also is used as a public-access catalog by many libraries.

According to a number of studies conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries and Community Learning, which produces the database, the majority of users report that they consult WISCAT from one to 50 times per day. Some consult it as many as 50 to 100 times a day or more.

### **Statewide Resource**

WISCAT production has helped enable libraries of all types and sizes in every area of Wisconsin to become both borrowers and lenders in the statewide interlibrary loan/resource-sharing system. The materials listed in WISCAT are generally available for loan to individuals regardless of where they live because libraries have been generous about making them

available. By offering comprehensive listings of materials each library holds, WISCAT also has made various types of information resources, such as state government documents, more accessible to many library borrowers.

WISCAT's consistent service during the last 15 years has been provided at an overall cost to each participating library of approximately \$500 per year. Compared with resource-sharing projects in other states, Wisconsin's computerized union catalog remains affordable for the state's libraries and relatively inexpensive to produce.

"Thanks to all the Wisconsin libraries that have contributed records and made materials available, and to the public library system personnel who have helped train member library staff in records entry and database use, WISCAT has become a major statewide resource-sharing tool," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction John Benson. "The continued growth of WISCAT is a testament to Wisconsin's librarians' dedication to the goal of making the materials in all our libraries accessible to every state resident." ■■

## AV Notes (cont.)

### Looking at Libraries

The series includes two programs that provide general information about the public library and the challenges it continues to meet.

- *Libraries Now: An Historic Past, A Growing Future* (1995) (video only; 11 minutes) is a shorter version of a similar videocassette in course 1 and may be shared with trustees, friends, public officials, and all who care about the public library in the United States. The program showcases the public library's ongoing adaptability, describing its strength and vitality, its ability to meet the needs of an ever-changing public, and uses of new technologies and ways of delivering service. (VHS/V-6344 (024770))

- *Course 1. Metropolitan Libraries: Continuing Significances, Constant Change* (1995) (VHS/V-6345 (024771)) This course provides an overview of major changes in public libraries since their beginning and is designed to help library staff understand some of the driving forces behind changes affecting libraries today.

### Library Operations

Courses two through five are each designed for staff in different areas of library operations. They are intended to provide a context within which members of each group can think about how they do their jobs and about how what they do supports the library's overall goals.

- *Course 2. Taking Charge of Your Work: Technical Services* (1995) (VHS/V-6346 (024772))
- *Course 3. Taking Charge of Your Work: Public Services* (1995) (VHS/V-6347 (024773))
- *Course 4. Taking Charge of Your Work: Facilities Support Services* (1995) (VHS/V-6348 (024774))

## Catalog (cont.)

Wisconsin Literacy Resource Network, and Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The alphabetical title listing indicates use restrictions, such as "home use only" or "in-state use only," where applicable. Reference and Loan title numbers are provided for booking purposes as well as descriptions of the library's use, borrowing, and booking policies. Because it is not annotated or indexed by subject, the catalog also outlines ways to find more information about programs listed.

Copies of R&LL's new video catalog have been sent to all Wisconsin public libraries, state document depository libraries, state correctional and mental health institutions, state government agency libraries, and Wisconsin public school districts. Other libraries, agencies, and organizations may request a copy from the Reference and Loan circulation department at (608) 224-6169 or from the audiovisual services librarian at (608) 224-6171. ■■

- *Course 5. Taking Charge of Your Work: Systemwide Services* (1995) (VHS/V-6349 (024775))

### Communication

Courses six through ten are known collectively as the "Enhancing Communication Series." They deal with the communication skills library staff need to effectively work with each other and library customers.

- *Course 6. Enhancing Internal Communication: Building Effective Relationships* (1996) (VHS/V-6350 (024776))
- *Course 7. Enhancing Internal Communication: Using Negotiation to Resolve Conflict* (1996) (VHS/V-6351 (024777))
- *Course 8. Enhancing External Communication: Managing Conflict* (1996) (VHS/V-6352 (024778))
- *Course 9. Enhancing Communication: Making Your Case* (1996) (VHS/V-6353 (024779))
- *Course 10. Enhancing Communication: Teaching Technology* (1996) (VHS/V-6354 (024780))

The series programs scheduled for later release are expected to be about trustees, public library partnerships, leadership for middle and upper management, and creating a

vision of the future. Reference and Loan staff plan to buy the final four programs as soon as possible after their scheduled release in late summer of this year.

### How to Borrow

Libraries and media centers of all types may call or send requests for videocassettes directly to the Reference and Loan Library. If they prefer, they may send requests through traditional interlibrary loan channels. Organization and business personnel, teachers at kindergarten through 12th grade schools, faculty and staff at academic institutions, and state agency employees also have the choice between contacting R&LL directly and sending interloan requests through their libraries. The R&LL phone number for making direct requests is (608) 224-6169; the fax number is (608) 224-6178.

All others, including individual borrowers, must request materials on interlibrary loan through their public libraries. Videocassettes may be booked for specific use dates. An item requested with no date specified will be sent immediately if available or booked for the next open date if it is in use. ■■

# Dates and Data

Send information on continuing education activities and meetings to Continuing Education, *Channel*, Division for Libraries and Community Learning. Deadlines are January 1 for the March issue, February 1 for the April issue, and so on. To be considered for publication, calendar listings must be received three months in advance.

## August

- 15: WLA Board of Directors Meeting.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva. Contact (608)245-3640.
- 15-25: Librarians' Tour to Iceland.** Sponsored by UW-Madison SLIS and Extension.
- 19: WCTS Materials Selection.** Berlin Public Library. Sponsored by Winnefox Library System. Contact Gloria Heogh, (414)236-5222, hoegh@winnefox.org.
- 25: Take a Personal Break: Workplace Stress and Ergonomics.** 9:15 a.m.-noon. Green Bay. Sponsored by Nicolet Federated Library System. Contact Sylvia Pratt, (414)448-4413, skpratt@mail.wiscnet.net.
- 31-9/5: International Association of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).** Copenhagen, Denmark.

## September

- 1-30: Library Card Sign-Up Month.** Contact American Library Association; (312)280-5043.
- 3: Interlibrary Loan Update. 9:30 a.m.-noon.** Hedburg Public Library, Janesville.



Poster created for the Children's Book Council,

Sponsored by Arrowhead Library System. Contact Rose Mary Leaver, (608)758-6690.

- 5: Homeschoolers and Children's Librarians.** 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Green Bay. Sponsored by Nicolet Federated Library System. Contact Sylvia Pratt, (414)448-4413, skpratt@mail.wiscnet.net.
- 8: International Literacy Day.** Contact International Reading Association, (302)731-1600.
- 9: New Technologies: What's Coming Next?** 9 a.m.-noon. Aram Public Library, Delavan. Sponsored by Lakeshores Library System. 2.5 CEPs. Contact Peggy Shaffer, (414)636-9222.
- 10: New Technology: What's Coming Next?/ Redesigning Work in the Changing Library Environment.**

Cynthia M. Dubois, City/County Library, Ladysmith  
Terrie D. Howe, Nicolet Federated LS

### Grade 3

Betty J. Blanke, Darien PL  
Velia C. Cane, Drummond PL  
Judith A. Heft, Slinger Community Library  
Renee M. Luzinski, Thorp PL  
Norma J. Soulier, Bad River Tribal Library, Ashland  
Cheryl M. Wilson, Sturgeon Bay Library ■

Marathon County Public Library, Wausau. Sponsored by Wisconsin Valley Library Service. Contact Linda Orcutt, (715)847-5535.

- 15: The Public Library and Home-schoolers.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. Hedburg Public Library, Janesville. Sponsored by Arrowhead Library System. Contact Rose Mary Leaver, (608)758-6690.
- 18: Creative Effective PR Materials.** 8:45 a.m.-noon. Horicon. Sponsored by Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System.
- 17-18: State Superintendent's Fall Conference for District Administrators.** UW-Madison Memorial Union. Sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction. Contact (608) 267-9294.
- 18: Volunteers in the Library.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mead Public Library, Sheboygan. Sponsored by Eastern Shores Library System. 0.35 CEP. Contact David Weinhold, (414)459-3412.

**20-26: Banned Books Week** Sponsored by the American Library Association, American Booksellers Association, and other groups. Contact ALA, (312)280-4223, (800)545-2433, ext. 4223, fax (312) 440-9374, <http://www.ala.org/bbooks>.

**25: Document Delivery Services.** 9 a.m.-noon. La Crosse Public Library. Sponsored by Winding Rivers Library System. 0.5 CEP. No fee; registration required. Contact Carol Erickson, (608)789-7131.

**25: Book Talking for Older Children and Young Adults.** 1-3 p.m. La Crosse Public Library. Sponsored by Winding Rivers Library System. 0.5 CEP. No fee; registration required. Contact Carol Erickson, (608)789-7131.

**25-26: Archives and Manuscripts: Arrangement and Description.** 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison. Sponsored by UW-Madison SLIS and UW Extension. 1.5 CEU. \$239. Contact Jane Pearlmutter, (608)262-6398, jpearl@macc.wisc.edu (information), or (608)262-7942, fax (608)265-3163 (registration).

**26-27: The Rural Library: Achieving Success in a Changing World.** Spokane, WA. Sponsored by UW-Madison SLIS. \$140. Contact Darlene Weingand, (608)262-8952, weingand@facstaff.wisc.edu (information), or (608)262-7941 (TDD 265-2370), fax (608) 265-3163, (800)741-7416 (registration).

**30: Feeling Safe in the Workplace.** 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Oshkosh Public Library. Sponsored by Winnefox Library System. Contact Gloria Hoegh, (414)236-5222, hoegh@winnefox.org. ■

# Certification

Wisconsin law requires public library (PL) and public library system (LS) administrators to be certified at the appropriate level by the Division for Libraries and Community Learning. This column lists administrators and other librarians who have recently earned certificates. For more information about certification, contact (608) 267-9225.

### Grade 1

Delores A. Bock, Barron County Library Service



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Unsolicited articles are not accepted. Press releases of state and national library/media/educational organizations are printed when space allows and if they are considered to be of statewide interest.

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Send comments about bylined articles to the authors. Direct other content inquiries to editor Telise E. M. Johnsen at the division address, at (608) 266-9679, or at [johnste@mail.state.wi.us](mailto:johnste@mail.state.wi.us). Mailing list changes and requests for subscriptions or extra copies should be submitted to Karen Nowakowski at the division address, (608) 267-9219, or [nowakkj@mail.state.wi.us](mailto:nowakkj@mail.state.wi.us).

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125 S. Webster St. / P.O. Box 7841 / Madison 53707-7841 / (800) 441-4563, DPI fax (608) 267-1052

## Division for Libraries and Community Learning

**Carolyn Winters Folke** (folkecw), Administrator  
(608) 266-2205

Unless otherwise indicated, address correspondence to the DPI mailing address. Staff also may be contacted using electronic mail. To form Internet addresses, use the letters that appear in parentheses after staff members' names and add @mail.state.wi.us.

**Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing Team** / 2109 S. Stoughton Rd. / Madison 53716 / fax (608) 224-6178

**Sally J. Drew** (drewsj)  
Director, (608) 224-6161

**Mary Clark** (clarkmh) Head, Resource  
Sharing Technology, (608) 224-6179

**Willeen Tretheway** (trethwk), Audiovisual  
and Technical Services, (608) 224-6171

**Circulation Desk**  
(608) 224-6169

**Loretta Harmatuck** (harmals),  
Government Services, (608) 224-6165

**Terry Wilcox** (wilcotl), Interlibrary Loan  
Services, (608) 224-6163

**Mary Struckmeyer** (strucme) Head  
Reference and Interloan, (608) 224-6168

**WISCAT User Support** (peterpj)  
(608) 224-6166

### Public Library Development Team

**Larry T. Nix** (nixlt)  
Director, (608) 266-7270

**Margaret Branson** (bransms)  
Coordinator, Library Services and  
Construction Act, (608) 266-2413

**Frances de Usabel** (deusafe), Consultant  
Specialized Services, (608) 266-0419

**Robert Bocher** (bocherf)  
Consultant, Technology  
(608) 266-2127

**Anders Dahlgren**, (dahlgac)  
Consultant, Public Library Buildings  
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**Donald Lamb** (lambdk) Consultant  
Public Library Administration and  
Continuing Education, (608) 267-9225

**Alan Zimmerman** (zimmeaw), Consultant  
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### Information and Instructional Technology Team

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(608) 266-2205

#### Media Technology Team

**Vacant**  
Consultant, Instructional  
Telecommunications, (608) 266-7112

#### Information Management Team

**Mark Evans** (evansmh),  
DPI Internal Technical Support  
and Training, (608) 266-7330

#### DPI Library

**Kay Ihlenfeldt** (ihlenkm)  
Librarian/Searcher  
(608) 266-3108

**Neah J. Lohr** (lohrnj) Consultant  
Microcomputers and Instructional  
Technology, (608) 266-3856

**Christine Selk** (selkcg)  
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**Debra Bougie** (bougida)  
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**Victoria Horn** (hornvl)  
Graphic Designer, (608) 267-5085

**Thomas Beebe** (beebets)  
Coordinator  
School Performance Report  
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**Gail Endres** (endregm)  
Printing Manager, (608) 267-5084

**Telise E.M. Johnsen** (johnste)  
Editor, *Channel*, (608) 266-9679

**Sandi Ness** (nesssk), Publication  
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### Bright Beginnings/Family Partnerships Team

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Director, (608) 266-9356

**Jill Haglund** (hagluja), (608) 267-9625

**Julie Allington** (allinjkl)  
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Wellness, (608) 267-9120

**Jeanette Lange** (langejr), (608) 267-9172  
**James McCoy** (mccoyja), (608) 266-1000  
Consultants, Early Childhood Education

**Eyvonne Crawford-Gray**

(crawfe), Consultant, Teen Single  
Parent Education, (608) 266-9368

**Ruth Anne Landsverk** (landsra)  
Families in Education, (608) 266-9757

**Stan Potts** (pottssj), Consultant  
Youth Service Learning, (608) 266-3569

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